

Happy Times

Each month, since 1947, a different women's club from the Toledo metropolitan area has served as hostess to the Society's Happy Times group.

The first Wednesday of every month, the blind ladies are picked up at their homes and driven to the Society for an enjoyable luncheon and afternoon's entertainment.

After the luncheon, the Happy Times Club has a short business meeting during which the secretary's minutes are read from Braille. A program of entertainment is then presented, followed by a bit of gossip and friendly conversation.

It is time, then, for the ladies to be driven back home after spending a pleasant afternoon with friends.

Approximately 25 ladies participate in and look forward to these Happy Times' meetings and for the members of the clubs who are hostesses throughout the year, it is a gratifying experience.



Through the years, this group of ladies were regular attendees at the Happy Times Club meetings.

Talking Book Services Extended

The talking book service is now bringing hours of entertainment and useful information to many new users throughout northwestern Ohio. Once available only to the blind, this service has been extended to those who cannot hold a book due to other physical handicaps.

The talking book library which contains literally hundreds of thousands of recorded books and magazines and the record players are free of charge.

Mrs. Hilda Crandall, who is in charge of the service, says the Society now has more than 1,000 talking book machines in circulation throughout our area. Distribution is handled through the Society and repair work on the machines is done voluntarily by the Pioneer Club, an organization of retired telephone repairmen.

Should you know of any qualified person who could use a talking book machine, please have them contact Mrs. Crandall at the Toledo Society for the Blind.



In the early days of the talking book machine, groups such as this enjoyed this new means of education and entertainment.



A group of blind persons getting ready to board the bus for a trip and week's stay at Camp Yukita.

CAMP— An Enjoyable Experience

Each year many of Toledo's blind enjoy a week's vacation at camp. Because of the support of our Christmas Card Program and contributions from many individuals and groups, the Society is able to rent the camp for one week each year.

Much like any other camp, most of the week is just for visiting, swimming and games except for the Thursday night amateur show. The whole program is created and performed by blind people, many of whom are wonderful musicians and entertainers.

The most popular feature of any camp is the food. There are blind people who never seem to have enough correct food to eat so at camp we see that there is plenty, even between meals.

Many blind and sighted volunteers help with serving the tables, cleaning cabins, swimming instruction, crafts, games, hiking, tours, fishing and provide lifeguard service.

Eye Clinic Still Going Strong

In 1968 we established a low vision medical eye clinic at St. Vincent Hospital to insure regular and complete eye examinations.

We examined 880 visually handicapped persons during 1973. Of the 482 persons who were referred to the clinic, 287 received complete ophthalmological examinations.

We especially want to thank the local ophthalmologists who have given their valuable time and skill to this effort—all with no monetary return to them.



Mrs. Crandall is checking cartons of talking book machines as Paul Blank loads them for shipment to recipients throughout northwestern Ohio.



Mrs. Dorcas Hantula is pictured giving an eye screening examination to one of many hundreds of children who have been examined.

the Toledo Society for the Blind



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A United Appeal Agency

Vol. 9 No. 5—April, 1974

1924-1974—50 Years of Service

In 1923 a blind man, Joseph Clunk, interested members of the Downtown Toledo Lions Club in forming an organization for service to blind people. With the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce and the Community Chest, the Toledo Society for the Blind was organized January 1, 1924 and Edward F. Evans was elected president.

A room in the Social Services Building, just large enough to hold two desks, was donated but it was soon evident that larger quarters were needed. Within several months, two rooms at 136 Huron Street were rented which gave the Society space in which to plan a few social activities. And, so it was, that the Happy Times and Progressive Clubs were formed which were the nucleus of our present day activities.

Having outgrown the Huron Street location, the year 1925 found the Society moving into a larger hall in the Valentine Building. It was there that a piano and victrola were donated and they were able to start a dancing class. This provided much needed exercise for young and old as well as being a social function.

By this time there were 313 known blind registered, which included a class for the blind at Jefferson School and three sight-saving classes in the public schools.

In 1928 we received \$10,000 from the Edward Drummond Libbey estate and, with the addition of a small mortgage, were able to purchase property at 718 Michigan Street which



A 1925 class for the blind at Jefferson School.

then became our new headquarters. We had money enough to furnish only one room.

In January, 1955, a plot of ground at Canton and Southard was donated by AP Parts Corporation. On this donated property, our present building was formally dedicated June 17, 1956 by Edward Evans who had served as president of the Society for 32 years.



Everyone helped and labor was donated for the painting and repairs of our first permanent home at 718 Michigan Street.

Lions Club Plays Important Role

Since the very early days of the Society, the Downtown Lions Club of Toledo has played an important role in our success. They have been most generous in their monetary assistance. Overall, the Club members have unselfishly administered to the general comfort and welfare of the Toledo area blind persons.

Long to be remembered are the Lions Club annual Christmas parties which began as far back as 1925 when the first party was held in the Parish House of Trinity Church. Those were the days when Henry Page gave free ice cream to any organization who asked. The party became bigger and better with each ensuing year, and was always one of the highlights of the Society's social activities. For many years now, each attendee has received a large bag of groceries which comprised the Christmas dinner in his or her home. Gifts are also delivered to all the Toledo and area blind shut-ins.

So, the Toledo Society for the Blind say a very grateful thanks to the Lions Club for privileges afforded to them which they might not have otherwise enjoyed.

That Others Might See

Approximately six years ago the Society began to collect eye glasses for which people no longer had a need. They were then shipped to "New Eyes for the Needy" in Far Hills, New Jersey, where they were sorted by experienced optometrists and ophthalmologists and shipped to various locations around the world, for use by those in need and who could not afford to buy glasses.

So, don't put your old glasses in the trash—give them to us!



Somewhere these glasses will find 600 new owners.

An Early Reminder About Your 1974 Holiday Cards

The money we make on the sale of our Christmas cards enables the Society to continue its many "extracurricular" programs not provided for by the United Appeal Funds. Among these are summer camp, eye screening for the young, the community medical eye clinic at St. Vincent Hospital, family nights, help for the blind bowlers and the



A large group of blind persons anxiously waiting for the annual Downtown Lions Club Christmas party to begin.

Lazy Eye (Amblyopia Ex Anopsia)

This is a condition in which an eye appears perfectly healthy yet, actually, has low or weak vision.

According to the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, it may affect as many as one out of each twenty American children. If a Lazy Eye is not detected by the time a child is six, permanent loss of vision can follow. Because Lazy Eye is difficult to detect, eye examination of pre-school children by qualified adults is vital.

In 1973 our volunteers successfully tested 880 children. About ten percent of the children needed referral to our clinic at St. Vincent Hospital for professional examination by an ophthalmologist.



Head Start children are happily occupied while awaiting their individual eye examinations. Each youngster is given a glass of milk and a cookie.

annual visit from Santa with gifts for our blind children.

If you would like to receive samples of these lovely cards, merely fill in the enclosed card and drop it in the mail. It is usually July before we receive our cards from the printer.

Bowling Is Fun And Good Exercise

There are three blind bowling leagues in Toledo which are comprised of blind persons, partially sighted persons and sighted guides. Two of the leagues meet at the Sports Center—one bowls at 2 P.M. on Saturday and the other is a 6 o'clock Wednesday evening league.

The third, called a Summer Fun League, also sponsored by the Society, is a Friday night 6 P.M. league at Westland Bowling Lanes. Scores vary greatly among the summer bowlers but they do strive very hard to improve their skill. Transportation to and from the lanes for the summer bowlers, is provided by the Society.

Although they bowl mainly for fun, the blind like to compete in tournaments. In 1975 the Ohio Blind Bowling Tournament will be held in Toledo at the Imperial Lanes. Some of our blind tournament participants win prizes at each tournament.

A few of the averages from the Saturday and Wednesday leagues are: Ray Meyers—113; Bob Gottschalk—113; Frank Radwanski—122; Addie Pointer—70; Art Swearengen—83; Ronnie Harris—46; Ricky Tramill—102; Virginia Place—51; Russ Deehr—140; and Homer Jackson—131.



Art Swearengen exhibits good bowling form.

Meaningful Work For The Blind

There are no blind people in the Toledo area willing and able to work who are without a job doing meaningful work.

In 1973 we packaged in excess of 90 million pieces in the modern, first class industrial shop located in our building.

While the primary purpose of the Industrial Department is to train the blind for placement in private industry (we have been very successful in doing this), there are those who, because of physical problems besides blindness or because of age, are unable to be placed in outside employment. These people are given less arduous work.

Incidentally, the head of the industrial shop is a man who has been blind since the age of five and whose wife is also blind. He took a course in Brooklyn, New York in shop management and a course for shop foreman at the University of Toledo.

We are proud of our Industrial Department and invite you to visit us to more closely observe this meaningful work.



Message From Our President

JOHN GOERLICH

Imagine, if you can, the heartbreak and tragedy of one of your family going blind. Your heart is broken, his or her dreams vanished and hopes crushed, but your love for the afflicted remains.

Because of the desperate need, the Toledo Society for the Blind was founded in 1924—50 years ago—to help all the people with a sight problem in the Toledo area, irrespective of age, nationality, sex, religion or financial status. We put our trust and faith in God who sends people to us with their sight problems, and we work daily to help them. Some may never again be able to lead completely normal lives, but we, at the Society, offer them a way out of utter hopelessness. We have the heart, the dedication and the ability to help people but without YOU and other good people like you, it would be impossible for us to do a full job.

We are a Red Feather agency and the Community Chest has been very considerate of our needs, but they are limited in what they can do for us because there are other agencies in Toledo who need help and, after all, only the money they can expend is the money they get from their annual drive. There is need at the Society for food, clothing, medicine and other expenses not covered by the Chest's grant. We need the support of YOU and others to carry on this humanitarian work. We, here at the Society, are doing our part.

Why don't you accept our invitation to visit us and see blind people working happily at gainful, useful employment and, if you have not included the Toledo Society for the Blind in your Will, I urge you to do so. Your attorney knows how to handle it, whether it is for now or later; whether it is cash, insurance, property or whatever, the Society will be pleased to help you.



Blind workers packaging clamps in the Industrial Department of the Toledo Society for the Blind.